5

10

15

20

25

30

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An object model for capturing decision-related data, comprising: a question interface for capturing a question in a question object; an answer interface for capturing an answer in an answer object; and a decision interface for capturing a decision in a decision object.
- An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein:
 each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision
 object is stored in a tool-neutral persistent form.
- 3. An object model in accordance with claim 2, wherein:
 each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision
 object is stored in a separate relational database, wherein associations
 between each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision
 object are captured using foreign keys.
- 4. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said question interface captures an association of said question object with a decision object.
- 5. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said answer interface captures an association of said answer object with a question object.
- 6. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said decision interface captures an association of said decision object with an answer object.
- 7. An object model in accordance with claim 1, wherein: said answer interface captures an association of said answer object with a question object.
 - 8. A method for capturing decision-related data, comprising: capturing a question in a question object; capturing an answer in an answer object; and

HPDN 10003655-1

5

10

15

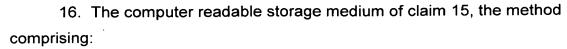
20

25

30



- 9. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising: storing each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object in a tool-neutral persistent form.
 - 10. A method in accordance with claim 9, comprising:
 storing each of said question object, said answer object, and said
 decision object in a separate relational database, wherein associations
 between each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision
 object are captured using foreign keys.
 - 11. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising: capturing an association of said question object with a decision object.
 - 12. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising: capturing an association of said answer object with a question object.
 - 13. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising: capturing an association of said decision object with an answer object.
 - 14. A method in accordance with claim 8, comprising: capturing an association of said answer object with a question object.
 - 15. A computer readable storage medium tangibly embodying program instructions implementing a method for capturing decision-related data, the method comprising the steps of:
 - capturing a question in a question object; capturing an answer in an answer object; and capturing a decision in a decision object.



storing each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object in a tool-neutral persistent form.

5

10

15

20

17. The computer readable storage medium of claim 16, the method comprising:

storing each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object in a separate relational database, wherein associations between each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object are captured using foreign keys.

18. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

capturing an association of said question object with a decision object.

19. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

capturing an association of said answer object with a question object.

20. The computer readable storage medium of claim 15, the method comprising:

capturing an association of said answer object with a question object.

25